

Jordan's National Statement before the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit

Jordan is privileged to be taking part in the second summit devoted to this issue of crucial importance to the entire international community, and we are pleased to announce our full backing to the Seoul Communiqué.

We are also grateful to President Lee Myung-bak and the government of the Republic of Korea for hosting and organizing this important summit. Likewise, we appreciate very much President Barack Obama's continued leadership over this subject matter and the support extended by the government of the United States to the nuclear summit process.

At the Washington Summit, I stressed the importance of strengthening our information sharing in respect of nuclear security. We all agree the IAEA's ITDB needs further support from us and this, in Jordan's assessment, will be our longer-term objective. To meet the threats of today -- which demand of us an almost instant reaction in real time -- Jordan believes we require further capabilities. It was in this context, I suggested at the Washington Summit we create a broad, well-funded, information clearing-house beyond the ITDB, wherein the transmission of sensitive information would be virtually instantaneous.

While this idea has yet to gain universal acceptance within the NSS community, Jordan is nevertheless pleased to note the existence of paragraph 9 in the Seoul Communiqué. To that end, I wish to report Jordan has begun to create a Counter-Nuclear Smuggling Team (CNS). We have done so because we recognize the extent to which the threat of nuclear material "on the loose" affects the national security of every country, whether or not a country enjoys the benefits of nuclear energy. All of us must therefore do everything we can to prevent the smuggling of highly enriched uranium and plutonium into, across, or out of our respective countries. Our planet simply cannot risk otherwise.

In establishing this team, and making it fully operational, Jordan will work with other countries that have experience in this field and, in due course, we will analyze what additional legislative steps, if at all, need be taken, in the context of criminalizing the trafficking of fissile material in our domestic penal codes.

We also have the honour of presenting a "gift basket" to the summit on this issue and we thank the other countries for joining us. We encourage all members of the NSS to join us in due, recognizing that all of this is being accomplished on a voluntary basis, in keeping with the terms of the Seoul Communiqué.

Abdullah II bin Al Hussein
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan